



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MICHIGAN

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EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

April 29, 2015

Energy Policy Committee  
Anderson House Office Building  
124 North Capitol Avenue  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Committee Members,

The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports the reduction of energy growth rates through policies that reduce energy demand and minimize the need for new generating capacity. House Bill 4297 eliminates sound energy optimization programs in place. The Governor stated in a recent address that we have seen an 8% reduction in waste through energy efficiency and we can easily achieve another 15%. These reductions, combined with the use of more renewable energy, is effectively transitioning us from fossil fuels.

Renewable energy is generally defined as energy that comes from resources which are naturally replenished such as sunlight, wind, water and geothermal heat. This bill would now include the incineration of municipal solid wastes. There is a growing awareness of the pollution hazards of incineration. Any energy recovery system from this waste stream preferably would begin with source reduction and recycling to limit the toxic wastes. The reclassification of incinerated tires, which can be recycled, and other fossil fuel-based, solid waste items as a renewable energy defies the public's perception of clean renewable energy.

The League of Women Voters of Michigan opposes HB 4297. Michigan has been on a successful track of reducing energy consumption and resident's bills while increasing our use of renewable energy and rebuilding our economy. This bill takes Michigan off the course of reducing our reliance on dirty fossil fuels.

Thank you for your attention to our comments and this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Smith, President  
League of Women Voters of Michigan